



## November Calendar

- 5 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 6 Election Day**
- 6** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 12 Veterans Day**
- 13 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 13** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 14** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 22 Thanksgiving Day**
- 28** Sustainability Comm.
- 28** Trails Committee

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## Improving Transparency of Village Board Meetings

Since the 1990's, when the Village began televising its Village Board meetings, there have been successive improvements in making the Board's deliberations more accessible on many levels. While the televised meetings enabled people with cable television to watch from home on Channel 78, the meeting was only available for viewing on one other night dur-



**New video system will replace meeting room camera**

ing that week. To make the Village Board meetings continuously available, live-streaming began in June of 2006. Residents with online computer capability were able to access meetings at their convenience. They could also skip to the parts of the meeting they were interested in seeing rather than watching from the beginning.

To prepare for meetings, the Trustees receive agendas containing correspondence and draft resolutions with relevant back up documents for the agenda items requiring their action. Although the subject matter was made available in advance to the general public, the backup material was not. In 2011 a software package, NOVUS Agendas, was introduced. NOVUS allowed all the documents relevant to an agenda item to be available online to all residents from the Village's website. The resulting meeting minutes are also subsequently posted on the website. Making the backup information available to residents for Village Board agenda items enabled residents to have a clearer understanding of the information available and the proposed wording for resolutions. It also helped interested residents to prepare their remarks at Board meetings based on the information.

While attending a meeting, however, those in the audience are frequently at a loss in understanding the discussion because they don't have the documentation in front of them. Lengthy resolutions, in particular, pose a challenge for attendees to follow as they are being read as well as references to particular documents being referred to by the Trustees.

To improve this situation, the Village has recently installed two large television screens facing both the audience and the Trustees which will display the documents being discussed by the Trustees. These documents will also be fed to the live-stream feed for people viewing from their computers. Several small video cameras mounted on the wall such as the one seen over the dais in the accompanying picture will record the Board, speakers during Citizen Participation segments, and the audience for a more complete experience for the home viewer. The video camera seen



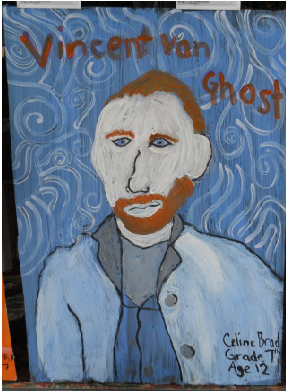
**Camera above dais**

in the picture on the left will no longer be in use as the camera operations will be managed mainly from the control room in the rear of the room. This new system, intended to enhance the viewing experience for both the viewer in the audience and the viewer at home, is expected to be initiated at the November 5 Board meeting. A single monitor system with the same capabilities is installed in the small conference room where the Board holds its work sessions.

Specific topical presentations will also be enhanced for the audience and the home viewer through greater clarity of the presenter's pictures and charts.

## Vincent Van Ghost Wins!

This year's Grand Prize winner in the Halloween Window Painting contest was Celine Brad. Her creation of Vincent Van Ghost was painted on the window of the Old Post Liquor store on Old Post Rd. South. Celine, a 7th grader, also won first place in her grade level category. A prize of a \$50 Savings Bond was awarded to Celine by the Croton Business Council. Congratulations Celine!



## Tree Lighting & Holiday Boutique

The Village Recreation and Parks Dept. and the Croton Business Council are joining resources to provide another enjoyable event at Vassallo Park for our residents. Following the format of the September Fun Fall and October Goblin Walk/Arts Market events, this will be their third co-sponsored event this Fall.



Festivities will begin on Saturday, December 1st at 5 pm at Vassallo Park with the tree lighting scheduled for 6 pm. During the day leading up to the lighting,

plan on joining your friends and neighbors in shopping, eating and getting into the holiday spirit throughout the Upper Village.

## Croton Seniors

Croton's Senior Club ended October with a costumed Halloween Party at the end of the month and they are getting ready for a busy holiday season beginning this month.

Their annual 'Not So Silent Auction' will occur at the November 9 meeting. Members donate nice items which they no longer need or want (dishes, wine, jewelry, fancy linens, etc.). Bidding is done by writing (silently). All proceeds go to the Club.

The much anticipated annual Holiday Shopping Trip to Danbury Mall, Christmas Tree Shop and Trader Joe's is set for November 14. Signup is required. If you are 60 or older, come to the Municipal Building any Friday and join the fun.



## Veterans Day Events

On Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11th at 11 AM, Croton's Central Veterans Committee will conduct a ceremony at the memorial at Veterans Corners (old Post Rd. South and Cleveland Dr.). All residents are invited to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Municipal Building.

Also, in what has become a yearly tradition, the Croton Yacht Club will hold a luncheon in honor of all veterans and active military in recognition of their service. The luncheon at the Yacht Club is free of charge for all Village veterans and active military. It will begin following the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Corners. Non-veterans are also invited. A donation of \$10 is suggested for non-veterans to offset the cost of the luncheon. Any net proceeds will be donated to the Croton Harmon VFW Post 5197.



If you wish to attend, please contact Dennis Kooney by email at [dennis@kooney.com](mailto:dennis@kooney.com) or by phone at 271-6384 by Tues., November 6th.

## Croton Featured in Wall Street Journal

An article entitled "Croton-on-Hudson Offers Inviting Harbor" in the Wall Street Journal describes the Village as an "idyllic waterfront community" with a "welcoming feeling sometimes not found in such settings." The article by Claudio Papapietro for the Journal describes the Village as a "mostly middle-class community of varied backgrounds" but as having historically been a magnet for "the creative and intellectual set" including Edna St. Vincent Millay and Gloria Swanson. Although not mentioned in the article, The Croton Historical Society's current exhibition in the Municipal Building, "The Masses", strongly supports Croton's intellectual history.



The Village's schools, variety of housing, parks and open space, and good commute to New York City were all identified as reasons why the Village is an inviting place to live.

To view the entire article, to [www.online.wsj.com](http://www.online.wsj.com) and enter "Croton-on-Hudson" in the Search box in the upper right corner of the page.



**REMINDER! Village Offices will be closed**  
**Monday, November 12 for Veterans Day and**  
**Thurs./Fri., Nov. 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving!**

## **Farmers Market Season Ends**

The weekly Wednesday Farmers' Market, located at the intersection of S. Riverside Ave. and Municipal Place, will close for the season on Wednesday, November 21, the day before Thanksgiving Day.



## **Meetings with the Manager**

Village Manager Abe Zambrano will be holding a series of community meetings this autumn. The meetings are intended to provide residents with an opportunity to ask questions about quality of life issues of concern to them. Residents may also offer their observations and suggestions to help improve the Village's operations. Department heads will also be in attendance to help answer questions and provide in depth information to attendees. Manager Zambrano organized a similar set of community meetings in 2010.

The Meetings in November will be on Wed., November 14 at the Grand Street Fire House and on Thurs., November 29 at the Washington Engine Company on North Riverside Ave. Both meetings will be from 7 to 8:30 pm.

## **85th Blood Drive Coming**

The 85th semi-annual Blood Drive is coming on Sun., December 2. The Croton Blood Program Committee will hold the event at Croton-Harmon High School from 9 am to 3 pm. Donors must be 16 years or older and at least 110 lbs. and healthy. Donors over 76 require a Doctor's note and 16 year olds need parental permission. When the call comes from the hospital, the New York Blood Bank needs to have blood ready to go - fully tested, processed, divided into its components and sitting on a blood bank shelf.

Appointments are needed so the medical staff can prepare. For appointments or more information, call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or email [communityblood-drive@gmail.com](mailto:communityblood-drive@gmail.com)



## **Recreation News!**

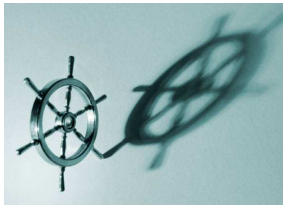
Summer 2012 marked another successful season for Croton's Recreation Dept. The numbers of attendees at various programs and facilities was impressive.

Silver Lake had a amazing total attendance of 9,655 over its summer season! The Friday night concerts at Senasqua Park continued to be popular with 200 to 600 attendees per concert. The Wednesday evening movies, also at the park, had an attendance ranging from 50 to 150 people.

The three two-week sessions of Day Camp averaged 65 to 75 per session. Half-day Tiny Tots Camp had 3 to 45 per session while full-day Tiny Tots Camp had 13 to 24 per session.



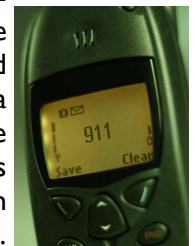
**Fall Programs.** The full schedule of programs, begun in September and October are continuing into November. Two additional classes, offered through the Recreation Dept., will be held in November. Introduction to Coastal Navigation and Coastal Navigation Certification will be offered for the second year. The Introductory



course (1-day, Nov. 4, 12 noon to 5 pm) teaches navigation techniques for sailing in coastal or inland waters including piloting, dead reckoning and reading charts. The Certification course (3 days, Nov. 4, 10 and 11, 12 noon to 5 pm) provides additional information such as correcting course for currents and leeway and tide/tidal currents. It culminates with the American Sailing Assoc. certification test. The registration deadline is Nov. 4. Sign up through the Croton Sailing School at 271-6868 or [discoversailing@crotonsailingschool.com](mailto:discoversailing@crotonsailingschool.com) or [www.crotonsailing.com](http://www.crotonsailing.com).

## **Lifeline Discount Phone Service**

Lifeline and Linkup Telephone Service are 2 government assistance programs that provide income-eligible customers with discounted phone bills. The program is intended to help eligible people stay connected to vital emergency and community services. Link-up provides a discount on the cost of initiating service for a residential phone, even a wireless phone. Lifeline may receive a discount on their basic local phone service charge. For more information visit [www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov) or contact your telephone provider for additional information. Your phone company's information is located on your phone bill.





## Published for the Residents of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor, Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee, Ian Murtaugh, Trustee, Casey Raskob, Trustee, Gregory Schmidt, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2, [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

### Croton Polling Places



Polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm at the following locations for the November 6 Presidential election. In addition to the US President and Vice President, candidates for the positions of US Senator, US Congressperson,

NYS Senator, NYS Assemblyperson, Supreme Court and County Court judges, and Croton Trustees will be on the ballot.

District 6	Grand St. Fire House
District 7	Municipal Building
District 8	Grand St. Fire House
District 9	Municipal Building
District 10	Harmon Fire House
District 25	Our Savior Lutheran Church
District 31	SkyView Nursing Home
District 39	Municipal Building

### Daylight Saving Time Ends

Don't forget to change your clocks and watches! Clocks will "fall back" one hour at 2am on Sunday, November 4th. Daylight Saving Time (DST) will resume on March 11, 2013.



## Got a Question?



**I have Verizon service for phone and internet and would like to upgrade to FIOS service for tv as well. Is it true that Verizon is not planning to offer this service in Croton.**

Unfortunately the answer is 'yes'. Verizon has confirmed at a conference of investors at Goldman Sachs in September, that it will not be expanding their FIOS services any further beyond their current franchise obligations. Verizon is moving away from wired networks to wireless.

The Village first invited Verizon to negotiate a franchise in 2007. After a series of starts and stops, Verizon called off negotiations in March, 2010. This also occurred with similar negotiations in other County municipalities.

Many residents contracted for phone and internet services in anticipation of getting its FIOS television service as well. Verizon's decision has left many of their Croton customers unhappy and confused about not getting the service they anticipated.

### The Energize Croton Program

On November 29, at 7:30 pm, at the Croton Library, Croton's Sustainability Committee will present a program to publicize and inform local organizations and residents about the benefits of the Energize Croton Program.

The Village Board voted to participate in the Energize New York program in order to extend the residential energy efficiency program to Croton residents.



A key component of the program, which the Village joined, is the inclusion of a public outreach component. The New York State program has been in existence for many years but, without a program that successfully publicizes it, has a low participation rate. The local Energize program, piloted by the Town of Bedford, seeks to increase participation through outreach to local organizations and community groups. Croton has designated the Sustainability Committee to manage the outreach to these groups as well as residents.

The meeting at the library will enumerate the many benefits and resources available through participation in the Energize program. The many groups who will be invited are expected, in turn, to pass on the Energy Program information to their constituents - increasing awareness of the program, its benefits, and participation in it.

Currently 13 of the 14 Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC) municipalities participate in the program. Individual residents can qualify for energy audits by licensed contractors at no cost to them in most cases. (It is free for households with incomes under \$210,000). Twenty-five residences in Croton have already taken advantage of the program and more are expected to sign on with increased knowledge of its benefits.

The free, or low cost, energy audit will result in a report which identifies improvements that would increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. A homeowner who decides to go ahead with the suggested improvements can participate in a low rate financing plan and may be eligible for 10% to 50% rebates on the costs. The average cost of improvements suggested as a result of an authorized Energy Audit is \$11,000 to \$12,000. The homeowner can decide whether or not to implement the suggested improvements or select which ones to undertake.

More detailed information about this program

